

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL INTERSCHOOL
ATHLETIC PROGRAMS IN IOWA CITIES WITH
POPULATIONS OF OVER 2,000

BY

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Although the advisability of interschool athletics at the junior high school level has been repeatedly questioned by some school administrators and by many medical authorities, it would seem that there is a growing trend in Iowa toward more competition on that level. If this is true, it is the duty of the administrator to see that his school has a balanced program, well supervised and financially supported by the community.

Statement of the Problem

The problem confronting the administrator can be divided into three parts. The first part is to determine what sports the athletic program should include. To answer this question the administrator should know what sports are usually included in the programs of school systems comparable to his own system, what the members of the community want, and probably most important of all, what is best physiologically and psychologically for the junior high school student.

The second question confronting the administrator would be the administration and supervision of the program. How many coaches will be required to supervise the program? What special qualifications should these coaches have? What eligibility requirements should be set up for the participants? A knowledge of the number of coaches used in similar programs and the qualifications of these coaches would help the administrator in deciding what is necessary for his program. In addition, a knowledge of desirable requirements for participation, based on other schools' records, would be helpful.

Finally the question of financing the program arises. This is always an important question to the administrator when establishing a new program. In answering this question, it would be helpful for the administrator to know the expenses encountered by similar programs in other school systems and the methods used by these school systems for obtaining the necessary funds.

Purpose

It is the purpose of the writer to discover how extensive the interschool athletic programs are in Iowa junior high schools in cities of two thousand population or more, how these programs are supervised, and how they are financed. With this information the writer will attempt to recommend a model program for an Iowa school in a city of similar size.

Limitations and Scope

This survey covers the competitive sports and the length of time they have been included in the various junior high school programs. The number of schools engaging in a sport and the number of years the sport has been included in the program will give some indication of the popularity of the sport. Also included in this survey are the number of coaches employed for junior high school athletic programs, special qualifications of these coaches, eligibility requirements for participants, expenses, and methods of financing the program.

Each of the Iowa school systems located in cities of two thousand population or over is included in this survey. The study was thus limited because it was felt that the majority of towns under two thousand population would have neither the facilities for a complete junior high school athletic program nor the staff nor the ability to finance an extensive program. In addition the limitation was set because the amount of time necessary for a complete study of all school systems in the state was prohibitive.

Definition of Terms

For the purpose of this study, "junior high school" refers to grades seven, eight, and nine, and "high school" refers to grades ten, eleven, and twelve. Grades six and below will be considered "elementary." "Football" refers to eleven-man, tackle football and a "track and field meet"

or "track meet" will be considered any meet where there is competition between two or more schools in running and field events. "Baseball" shall be the game normally known as baseball and played with a ball nine inches in circumference, while "softball" shall refer to any similar game played with a larger ball and shortened base lines.

Background Information

Areas outside the State of Iowa report widespread participation in interscholastic sports at the junior high level. A recent survey showed that forty-seven of fifty schools surveyed in Oregon participated in junior high school athletics.¹

Schools in the vicinity of Compton, California have had a successful junior high school league for twenty-two years. The schools engage in five sports: football, basketball, baseball, tennis, and track. Trophies are awarded the winning team in each sport and a traveling plaque is awarded each year to the school with the best all around performance for the year. Each school has three coaches who share the supervision of the five sports. The eligibility of athletes is determined by the individual school for its own participants. Good citizenship is regarded as the governing factor rather than scholastic attainment.²

¹Hollis F. Fait, "Needed: A Policy on Junior High Interscholastic Athletics," Journal of American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, XXIV (October, 1950), 20.

²Kenneth W. Mason, "Junior High Athletic League," Clearing House, XXIV (October, 1949), 90-92.

Saint Joseph, Michigan has had junior high football since 1938. The boys are divided into three divisions, each division playing a different type of football. Those weighing less than one hundred pounds are placed in division one and play six-man football. Those weighing between one hundred and 130 pounds play eight-man football. The third group plays eleven-man football. Members of this group must weigh over 130 pounds. If a boy is more mature or is more skilled than the other members of his group, he is advanced to the next group.³

Although much criticism has been directed at junior high school athletics, it is questionable if this criticism is well founded. Perhaps this criticism should be directed at the administration of the athletic program.

On the question of the effects of junior high school athletics on students, Fait writes:

Assumptions galore have been made of the harmful effects and benefits to be derived from participation in varsity athletics at the junior high school age level. But there remains a definite need to establish a clear-cut policy based upon scientific principles and proved by controlled experiments.⁴

And on the administration of junior high school athletics, Walker writes:

The survey of junior high school football in Texas indicated a lack of uniformity and showed the pressing need for standards. Contrary to the opinion of some educators, organized leagues, involving championship

³ Leon E. Burgoyne, "Football Program for Junior High School, "Athletic Journal", XXX (October, 1949), 32.

⁴ Fait, op. cit., p. 20.

honors, played a stronger role in controlling, modifying, and equalizing competition in a wholesome manner, than they did in intensifying competition.

Where competition was not well organized, the danger of inequality of competition entered the picture since age limits and other factors were not controlled uniformly.⁵

One controlled experiment on interscholastic athletics on the junior high school level used gain in height, weight, and chest expansion as standards for comparison to ascertain if the athletic program had harmful effects upon the participants. It was found in this experiment that boys engaging in interscholastic athletics gained less in lung expansion, weight, and height than did the boys who did not compete, but it was also discovered that boys in physical education classes gained more than boys not taking physical education. One opinion given for the results of this experiment was that boys who want to participate in interschool athletics are more mature and have, therefore, reached a slowing down period in their growth rate. The conclusion of this study was that boys should be mature before engaging in interschool athletics.⁶

The results of a questionnaire sent to orthopedic surgeons in 1947 showed that 403 surgeons who replied felt that there was a need for a more complete, and a more thorough, physical examination for boys competing in junior high

⁵ Malcolm Walker, "Interscholastic Football in Junior Highs," Athletic Journal, XXXI (February, 1951), 24.

⁶ Floyd A. Rowe, "Should Junior High Schools Have Highly Organized Competitive Athletics?" School Activities, XXII (November-December, 1950), 96-99, 129-130.

school athletics. These examinations should include such considerations as organic lesions, congenital heart, hernia, postural defects, endocrine imbalance, sexual maturity, rate of growth, epiphysitis, chest expansion, coordination, exercise tolerance (stamina), muscular development, mentality, and attitude.⁷

The major criticism of junior high school football is that boys of this age are more susceptible to injury than are older boys. However, the survey of Texas schools revealed an injury incidence of 5 per cent in junior high schools compared to 10 per cent in high schools.⁸ Therefore, when junior high school athletics are properly supervised and definite standards are used, the younger boys might not be more susceptible to injuries. Walker suggests that the incidence of injury might be less for younger boys:

There is perhaps a very simple and obvious explanation which has been overlooked by educators. Boys who weigh less and have less speed, on coming into contact with other boys of near equal size and speed are subject to less shock on contact than are boys of greater maturity, having greater weight and speed.⁹

As an answer to the need for uniform standards to control the administration of junior high school athletics, many states have adopted rules which must be followed by

⁷ C. L. Lowman, "The Vulnerable Age," Journal of Health and Physical Education, XVIII (November, 1947), 635-636.

⁸ Walker, op. cit., p. 24.

⁹ Ibid.

the schools in that state. The Iowa High School Athletic
Association has adopted a set of rules for this purpose.¹⁰

CHAPTER II

STUDY OF JUNIOR HIGH INTERSCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

The data used in this study were obtained, for the most part, by means of a questionnaire sent to the superintendents of the 112 public school systems in cities of over two thousand population in Iowa. Of the 112 questionnaires mailed, ninety-eight were completed and returned. Other data were obtained from the Iowa High School Athletic Association and from library research.

Information collected by means of the questionnaire was used to determine the extent of junior high school interschool athletic programs in Iowa, how they are supervised, and how they are financed. The Iowa High School Athletic Association supplied the rules which govern the athletic programs of its member schools.

The answers obtained from one question in the questionnaire were discarded as irrelevant to the survey. This question was: "What is the total number of pupils enrolled in all seventh, eighth, and ninth grades in your school system?" The answers to this question seemed to have little bearing on the extent of the athletic program.

Table 1 shows the sports included in the athletic programs of the ninety-eight school systems replying to

the questionnaire. It also gives the length of time each sport has been included in the program. Some superintendents replied that they had no record of how long the sport had been a part of their school's junior high school program.

TABLE 1

LENGTH OF TIME SPORTS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN JUNIOR HIGH
INTERSCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS IN IOWA CITIES OF
OVER 2,000 POPULATION IN 1952

Length of time in- cluded	Foot- ball	Boys Basket- ball	Girls Basket- ball	Base- ball	Track	Soft- ball	Wres- tling
1 - 5 years	23	10	2	10	17	0	0
5 - 10 years	18	17	1	7	16	0	0
Over 10 years	34	46	4	3	29	1	0
Unknown time	12	22	3	3	16	1	3
Do not have the sport .	11	3	88	75	20	96	95

As shown by the table, approximately 89 per cent of the schools replying have football, 97 per cent have boys basketball, 80 per cent have track, 2 per cent have softball, and 3 per cent have wrestling. Football appears to be the most recent sport added to most programs, as 24 per cent of the schools report they have had this sport from one to five years. One-third of all the schools have had football for over ten years, and almost one-half of the schools have had boys basketball for over ten years. This seems to indicate that a junior high interschool athletic program is well

established in some schools and that most of the schools now have some type of program.

Since the number of contests engaged in by a junior high school with other junior high schools in other school systems is affected by the number of junior high schools in the same system, two tables have been made. Table 2 includes the fourteen reporting school systems having more than one junior high school or more than one school which contains junior high school grades. Some of these systems combine the squads of all junior high schools in the system when playing out of town games. None of these schools reported girls basketball or wrestling. The average number of football games played by a school with other schools in the same system is three and the average number with out-of-town schools is two. For boys basketball the average number of games is four with schools in the same system and five with out-of-town schools. Only two schools reported playing baseball and one softball; these played only schools in their own system. Eleven of the fourteen schools have track meets for the schools in their system and half of the fourteen schools enter meets with other towns.

Table 3 shows the number of interscholastic contests engaged in by the eighty-three reporting school systems having one junior high school. As shown by the table, boys basketball, football, and track are the most popular of the interscholastic sports. Of the schools including football

in their program; most play four or five games in a season. In boys basketball most of the schools play eight to twelve games per season with the median falling at ten games. Fifty-one schools have track teams and enter from one to six meets per year, the median being two meets. The median number of baseball games played by the schools reporting baseball is four. No school reported softball and only three reported wrestling. The only interscholastic competition reported for girls was from the ten schools reporting girls basketball. The median number of games played by these schools was four.

TABLE 2

NUMBER OF CONTESTS PLAYED BY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS IN
IOWA CITIES OF OVER 2,000 POPULATION IN 1952
(MORE THAN ONE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL)

Number of contests	Football		Boys Basketball		Baseball		Track		Softball	
	In*	Out*	In*	Out*	In*	Out*	In*	Out*	In*	Out*
1 ...	2	3	1	1	...	...	11	3	...	...
2 ...	1	...	4	2	...	...	...	2	...	2
3 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
4 ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
5 ...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
6 ...	4	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
7 ...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
8 ...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
9 ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
10 ...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
11 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12 ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
13 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
0 ...	4	6	3	4	12	14	3	7	13	14

* "In" refers to contests within the school system. "Out" refers to contests outside the school system.

TABLE 3

NUMBER OF CONTESTS PLAYED BY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS IN
IOWA CITIES OF OVER 2,000 POPULATION IN 1952
(ONE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL)

No. of con- tests	Foot- ball	Boys basket- ball	Girls basket- ball	Base- ball	Track	Soft- ball	Wres- tling
1 ..	1	...	1	1	11	...	1
2 ..	4	1	...	4	20	...	...
3 ..	6	...	...	1	13	...	...
4 ..	24	2	4	8	4	...	1
5 ..	22	4	1	...	1	...	...
6 ..	12	10	1	2	2	...	...
7 ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
8 ..	1	16	1	1	...	...	1
9 ..	...	5	1	...	...	...	...
10 ..	...	22	1	...	...	...	...
11 ..	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
12 ..	...	14	...	...	...	...	...
13 ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14 ..	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
15 ..	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
16 ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17 ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
0 ..	12	1	73	66	32	83	80

The number of coaches employed to supervise the junior high school athletic program varies greatly among the schools surveyed. A few use high school coaches entirely to supervise the junior high program, while most of the schools have coaches whose sole coaching responsibility is to supervise the junior high program. Still others use a combination of high school and junior high coaches for the program. Table 4 summarizes the number of coaches hired for junior high school work. Six schools use one high school coach; one school uses five high school coaches; and one uses six. Forty-eight school systems hire one junior high coach and one school system hires twelve junior high coaches. Most of the schools employing women as junior high coaches employ only one.

TABLE 4

NUMBER OF COACHES SUPERVISING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC PROGRAMS IN IOWA CITIES OF OVER
2,000 POPULATION IN 1952

Number of coaches per system	High school coaches	Junior high coaches - men	Junior high coaches - women
1	6	48	10
2 .....	...	30	...
3 .....	...	3	1
4 .....	...	6	1
5	1	...	...
6	1	2	1
7 .....	...	...	...
8 .....	...	...	...
9 .....	...	1	...
10 .....	...	1	...
11 .....	...	...	...
12 .....	...	1	...

A summary of special qualifications required of junior high coaches by the school systems studied is given in Table 5. The most common requirements are a minor in physical education and a knowledge of and interest in the sport for which the coach was hired.

TABLE 5

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED OF JUNIOR HIGH COACHES
IN IOWA CITIES OF OVER 2,000 POPULATION IN 1952

Qualifications required	Men	Women
None, except valid teaching certificate	26	3
Valid teaching certificate plus knowledge of, and interest in athletics	22	2
Minor in physical education	20	4
Major in physical education	9	6
Minor in physical education and two years experience	1	...
Valid teaching certificate plus participation in at least one major sport in college	1	...
Same as for high school coach	12	...

The responsibility for scheduling games varies slightly within the different school systems. In most school systems studied, the junior high school coaches are given this responsibility or they share it with another person such as the athletic director, principal, or superintendent. Table 6 shows the persons having direct responsibility or a share of the responsibility for the scheduling of games. The questionnaire showed that in eighty-five of the schools replying, approval of the principal is required for the schedule.

TABLE 6

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SCHEDULING OF JUNIOR HIGH
SCHOOL GAMES IN IOWA CITIES OF OVER
2,000 POPULATION IN 1952

Person scheduling games	Number of schools
Athletic director for the schools	32
Junior high coaches	50
Junior high school principal	32
Superintendent	2

In the spring of 1951, the Iowa High School Athletic Association amended its constitution in order to place junior high school athletics under its control. This amendment was adopted by a 72.71 per cent favorable vote of the member schools.¹¹ All of the schools which are members of this organization and have junior high school athletic programs must now abide by the rules of this organization. This includes nearly all of the schools in Iowa since membership in the Iowa High School Athletic

¹¹Iowa High School Athletic Association, Bulletin No. 224, (Boone, Iowa: Iowa High School Athletic Association, September, 1951), p. 6.

Association is nearly 100 per cent. At the time of this writing (1952) these rules have been in effect for only one year, but they seem to be an answer to the need for uniform standards to control the administration of junior high school athletics. The rules which were adopted by the Iowa High School Athletic Association are as follows:

Item 1: A boy of the ninth grade is eligible to compete in interscholastic athletic contests involving boys of grades 8 and 7, provided the ninth grade boy is not and has not been a member of a high school squad composed of boys enrolled in grades 10-12.

Item 2: A boy enrolled in grades below the ninth grade shall be eligible only during his first 4 semesters after entering the seventh grade.

Item 3: A boy may take part in interscholastic athletic contests involving grades 7 and 8 for no more than 4 semesters while he is a member of grades below the ninth and for no more than 6 semesters while he is a member of grades below the tenth.

Item 4: A boy shall be eligible to participate in no more than 4 years of any particular sport while a member of grades above the eighth and no more than 3 years in a particular sport while a member of grades below the tenth.

Item 5: No boy 17 years of age shall be eligible to compete in interscholastic contests involving boys of seventh and eighth grades.

Item 6: All boys participating in interscholastic contests involving grades 7, 8, 9 shall be passing 15 semester hours.

Note 1. Fifteen semester hours means a total of 15 hours or periods of passing work a week. This includes all class work where classes meet five times or less a week.

Item 7: No football practice or game involving boys of grades 7 and 8 shall be held after the first Saturday of November until August 24th of the following year.

Item 8: No boy of grades 7 or 8 shall participate in more than one interscholastic athletic contest a week

except in sanctioned meets, and in such meets not more than one contest a day.

Item 9: A school shall be limited to participation in but one basketball tournament involving boys of grades 7, 8, or 9, during any one school year. This tournament to be regular county junior high tournament or an Association sponsored tournament.

Item 10: A boy of the sixth grade shall not be eligible to compete in contests involving boys of the seventh and eighth grades.

Item 11: Such other rules as shall be deemed proper for the control and administration of interscholastic competition involving a boy of grades 7 and 8 shall be adopted by the Board of Control.¹²

A number of the schools included in the survey indicated that they had rules for eligibility to supplement the rules of the Iowa High School Athletic Association. Table 7 shows these rules.

TABLE 7

ELIGIBILITY RULES ESTABLISHED IN 1952 BY IOWA SCHOOLS
IN CITIES OF OVER 2,000 POPULATION TO SUPPLEMENT THE
RULES OF THE IOWA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Rules	No. of schools
None	76
Passing work in all subjects	8
High standard of citizenship and conduct	11
Passing in all work and a high standard of conduct	1
Passing in all but one subject	1
Rules set up by an advisory committee	1

Although the rules of the Iowa High School Athletic Association allow ninth graders to participate in junior high school athletics, almost three-fourths of the schools

¹² Ibid., pp. 5-6.

studied do not permit ninth graders to participate with seventh and eighth graders. This is shown by Table 8. In these systems the ninth graders are usually allowed to compete with high school students. Some schools have ninth grade teams which play a complete schedule of games. Two schools allow ninth graders to compete as junior high students in track only, and one in basketball only. One school allows ninth graders to compete with eighth graders, but not with seventh graders.

TABLE 8

REPLIES OF IOWA SUPERINTENDENTS IN 1952 TO THE QUESTION
"DO NINTH GRADERS PARTICIPATE WITH
SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADERS?"

Replies	Number of superintendents
No	72
Yes	22
In track only	2
In basketball only	1
With eighth, but not with seventh	1

Table 9 shows the total expenditures of the schools surveyed which kept separate accounts for their junior high school athletic program. The average school spent \$100 to \$199 per year for football, with two schools spending less than \$50 and four schools spending \$500 to \$1000. The average school spend \$100 to \$199 for basketball. The cost for track was considerably less. Nine schools reported some expenses for other sports.

TABLE 9

EXPENSES OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS
IN IOWA CITIES OF OVER 2,000 POPULATION IN 1952

Expenses	Football	Basketball	Track	Other sports
Less than \$50	2	4	13	3
50 - 99 ...	12	25	15	5
100 - 199 ...	22	27	7	1
200 - 299 ...	12	2
300 - 499 ...	10	3
500 - 1000 ...	4	4	2	..

Part of the expenses of an athletic program are the fees paid to officials for officiating at athletic contests. However, less than half of the schools answering the questionnaire, as shown by table 10, indicated that paid officials were used. Most schools, using paid officials, paid from \$5.00 to \$9.99 a game for football and basketball games and \$2.50 to \$4.99 for baseball games.

TABLE 10

FEES PAID TO OFFICIALS FOR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GAMES IN
IOWA CITIES OF OVER 2,000 POPULATION IN 1952

Fees per game	Football	Basketball	Baseball
\$1.00 - \$ 2.49 ...	1	2	..
2.50 - 4.99 ...	6	12	4
5.00 - 9.99 ...	22	15	..
10.00 - 15.00 ...	2	3	2
0	47	48	73

Methods used in financing the junior high school athletic programs are shown in Table 11. Most programs are financed through the high school athletic fund of the school. About half of the schools charge admission to

their games to help finance the program. Other fund raising methods listed include: school plays, concerts, and carnivals; selling merchandise such as popcorn, candy, cold drinks, pennants, and badges at games; magazine sales; paper drives; and funds allotted in the school board budget. Tables 12 and 13 indicate the persons responsible for selling tickets and the taking of tickets at games where admission is charged. According to the results shown in these tables, teachers are usually assigned to these tasks. Junior high pupils are sometimes used for such jobs, however. One school has the high school athletic manager sell tickets.

TABLE 11

METHODS OF FINANCING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC
PROGRAMS IN IOWA CITIES OF OVER 2,000
POPULATION IN 1952

Methods used	Number of schools
High school athletic fund	73
Jr. high school activity fund in the school budget.	16
Admission charged for games	42
Donations from civic organizations	3
School plays, concerts, and carnivals	3
Magazine sales	7
Paper drives	3
Selling merchandise at games	7
Junior high activity tickets	5
Profits from county junior high tournament	1
Special benefit games	1

In answer to the question, "Is a separate junior high activity account kept," thirty-seven superintendents replied "yes" and fifty-six replied "no". Five superintendents

gave no reply to this question. The person responsible for this account in the schools replying "yes" is shown by Table 14. In twenty-seven of the thirty-seven schools the superintendent or the junior high principal is responsible. The other ten schools listed other persons as being responsible, as shown by the table.

TABLE 12

PERSONS SELLING TICKETS AT JUNIOR HIGH GAMES IN
IOWA CITIES OF OVER 2,000 POPULATION IN 1952

Person selling tickets	Number of schools
Junior high teachers	26
Junior high pupils	8
Junior high principal	4
Business manager	2
High school athletic manager	1

TABLE 13

PERSONS TAKING TICKETS AT JUNIOR HIGH GAMES IN
IOWA CITIES OF OVER 2,000 POPULATION IN 1952

Person taking tickets	Number of schools
Junior high teachers	28
Junior high pupils	9
Junior high principal	2
High school pupils	1

From the results of the questionnaire sent to the schools in Iowa, it would seem that junior high school athletics are well established in cities of over two thousand population. However, the extent of the various programs varies greatly over the state.

TABLE 14

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
ACTIVITY ACCOUNT IN IOWA CITIES OF OVER
2,000 POPULATION IN 1952

Person responsible for activity account	No. of schools
Superintendent	14
Junior high school principal	13
Secretary of the school board	3
Classroom teacher	3
Treasurer of the high school activity account .	3
Junior high school coach	1

CHAPTER III

A MODEL JUNIOR HIGH INTERSCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM FOR AN IOWA SCHOOL IN A CITY OF OVER 2,000 POPULATION

From the results of the questionnaire it appears that interschool athletics have a definite place in the physical education programs of the junior high schools in Iowa cities of over two thousand population. It should be a complete, closely supervised program which supplements a good intramural program rather than a program designed to take the place of an intramural program. Close supervision is necessary to avoid serious injuries. Before beginning a program, a budget should be planned and definite methods for financing the program should be in mind.

A program, to be complete, should include different activities for every season. It should also be made available to all who show an interest. All boys should be given an opportunity to learn to play the game and playing facilities should be shared by all. The instruction and coaching time should be equally divided to give the younger and less-skilled boys opportunity to develop body control. The primary obligation is to provide activities for all,

not just the physically gifted. In an article on basketball, Knapp and Combes say:

Interscholastic programs if deemed advisable in local situations, should represent only the peak of a pyramid which has for its base, basketball experience for all or most of the boys in class situations; and for its mid-section, basketball for the many in recreational and intramural activities.¹³

A complete interschool program for an Iowa school in a city of over two thousand population would include football, basketball, and track. These three were selected because they are the most popular according to the survey of Iowa schools and because the seasons of these three sports cover the school year and their seasons do not overlap. The fact that the seasons do not overlap means that the coaching can be carried on by a minimum number of persons thus making it possible for the smaller schools with limited finances to have a complete program for the year.

The football season may begin on August 24 and continue until the first Saturday in November, according to the rules of the Iowa High School Athletic Association. At least three weeks of practice should be held prior to the first game. Tables 2 and 3 show that five games should be the maximum number that should be played in one season. If a school system has more than one junior high school of sufficient size to have a football team, part or all of this

schedule should be played with schools in the same system. School systems having more than one school with junior high grades could have one squad, drawing players from all the schools, if the schools are too small to have individual teams. This team could play a schedule of games with out-of-town schools.

The basketball season would begin in November after the close of the football season. This sport, as shown by the survey, is the most popular of the interscholastic sports for junior highs. Only three of the ninety-eight schools in the study did not have basketball. The survey also showed that a ten game season would be ideal for boys. Since only ten schools reported girls basketball, this will not be included in the model program. Perhaps one reason that junior high girls basketball is not popular in Iowa is the fact that junior high girls are eligible to compete for the high school team.

Track was chosen as the spring sport for the model program instead of baseball because of its low cost and its popularity. Approximately 80 per cent of the schools surveyed have track, compared to 24 per cent who have baseball. It is very difficult to have both track and baseball in the average Iowa junior high school because of a conflict in practice schedules. There are not, in most cases, enough boys interested to complete both squads. School systems

having more than one junior high school should have a meet for its own schools. In addition to this meet, they could enter two outside meets. Where there is only one junior high school in the system, the school could enter three meets with outside schools.

The number of coaches needed for a model program would vary with the number of boys participating. It is the opinion of the writer that one is needed for every twenty boys participating. To be qualified to supervise junior high school boys, the coach, besides having a valid teaching certificate, should have at least a minor in physical education, a knowledge of, and an interest in the sports which he is employed to teach. The junior high school coach or the athletic director of the schools should have the responsibility for the scheduling of games for the junior high school. The schedules should, in all cases, be approved by the junior high school principal or the superintendent of the school system.

Before being allowed to participate in any practice a boy should be subjected to a rigid physical examination to determine his physical fitness and his maturity. Only the more mature boys should be allowed to compete in strenuous interschool athletics. It would seem advisable to bar ninth graders from participation with seventh and eighth graders because of the difference in maturity. The rules of the Iowa High School Athletic Association seem to be sufficient to control junior high school athletics at the present.

A rule which might be added by local authorities would be a rule requiring good citizenship and conduct by all participants. Scholarship should not be the major requirement for participation in any activity sponsored by the school.

Five hundred dollars, with the exception of the salaries of the coaches, would be a sufficient amount of money to finance a model program for one year. Football, because of the high cost of equipment, would need three hundred dollars; basketball, one hundred fifty dollars; and track, fifty dollars. This would include officials' fees and transportation to out-of-town games. Fees charged by officials vary, but five dollars for a football official and \$2.50 for a basketball official would be a fair amount. Adults should be used as officials in all games. While high school boys can sometimes do a good job of officiating, there is much more opportunity for arguments to begin and ill-feelings to develop when they are used as officials. Arguments should be especially avoided and a feeling of friendliness should prevail at junior high school games. Men can usually be obtained to officiate at track meets without charge.

The money to finance this program would come from ticket sales at games; selling merchandise, such as popcorn, candy, and cold drinks at ball-games; and a junior high school activity fund in the school board budget. Some money could

probably be obtained from the high school activity fund. Other methods shown in table twelve might be used, depending on the local situation. Tickets at ball-games could be sold by junior high school teachers assigned to this job by the principal. Junior high school students might be able to do this under supervision of a teacher. The students could be used to take the tickets at the door and they could sell merchandise at the games. In this way the junior high school athletic program could be used to furnish educational experiences to students other than those participating in the contest.

A separate junior high school activity account should be kept to insure fair distribution of the funds. The principal would be the logical one to handle this in most cases. In other cases the principal might appoint a teacher to be responsible for this fund.

This junior high school athletic program is designed to supplement the regular physical education program and in no case should it be used as a substitute for a physical education program. It is the intention of the writer that the same equipment and facilities used for this program be used by the regular physical education classes whenever practical.

APPENDIX

LETTER ACCOMPANYING QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO SUPERINTENDENTS
OF ALL SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN IOWA CITIES OF
OVER 2,000 POPULATION

February 27, 1952

Dear Superintendent:

As a partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Master of Science degree in Education at Drake University I am making a study of junior high school athletic programs in Iowa cities with population of more than 2000. The enclosed questionnaire has been prepared to determine the type and scope of programs now in existence.

I would appreciate it very much if you would take a few moments to complete the questionnaire and return it in the enclosed envelope.

Yours very truly,

Richard D. Hartman

QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO SUPERINTENDENTS OF ALL SCHOOL
SYSTEMS IN IOWA CITIES OF OVER 2,000 POPULATION

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS FOR SEVENTH, EIGHTH AND NINTH GRADES
ORGANIZATION

- I. How many schools do you have in your system which have seventh, eighth and ninth grades or seventh and eighth grades? _____
- II. What is the total number of pupils enrolled in all seventh, eighth and ninth grades in your school system? _____
- III. Are ninth graders in your school system allowed to participate with seventh and eighth graders in your junior high school athletic program? Yes _____, No _____
- IV. What competitive sports are included in your junior high athletic program?
 - A. Football. Yes _____, No _____
 1. Is it 11 man? _____
 2. Is it 6 man? _____
 3. How long have you had football in your program? _____
 4. What is the average number of games your junior high schools (each school) play with other junior high schools in your school system? _____
 5. What is the average number of games your junior high schools play with junior high schools in other cities? _____
 - B. Basketball. Yes _____, No _____
 1. Do you have boys basketball? _____
 2. Do you have girls basketball? _____
 3. How long have you had basketball in your program? _____
 4. What is the average number of games your junior high schools (each school) play with other junior high schools in your school system? Boys _____, Girls _____
 5. What is the average number of games your junior high schools play with junior high schools in other cities? Boys _____, Girls _____

- C. Baseball. Yes _____, NO _____
1. How long have you had baseball in your program? _____
 2. What is the average number of games your junior high schools (each school) play with other junior high schools in your system? _____
 3. What is the average number of games your junior high schools play with junior high schools in other cities? _____
- D. Track and field. Yes _____, No _____
1. How long have you had track and field in your program? _____
 2. Do you have a city meet for schools in your system? Yes _____, No _____
 3. How many meets (outside of meets held exclusively for schools in your system) do your junior high schools enter? _____
- E. Other competitive sports
1. Boys softball _____, Girls softball _____
 2. Boys volleyball _____, Girls volleyball _____
 3. Please list other junior high school athletic contests which your junior high schools sponsor.

 4. If you have additional athletic activities such as softball, volleyball, etc., how are they conducted?

ADMINISTRATION

- I. Who supervises the junior high school athletic program?
- A. High school coaches _____
 - B. Junior high school coaches _____
 1. How many junior high school coaches do you have?
Men _____ Women _____
 2. What special qualifications do you require for junior high coaches?
For men _____
For women _____
- II. Who schedules the games?
- A. Athletic director _____
 - B. Junior high coach (or coaches) _____
 - C. Principals _____

- III. Is approval of the principals required for the schedule? Yes _____, No _____
- IV. What eligibility rules are used to supplement the rules for eligibility of the Iowa High School Athletic Association? _____

- V. How is your junior high school athletic program financed?
- A. High school athletic fund _____
 - B. A special junior high school athletic fund in the school board budget _____
 - C. Admission charged for games _____
 - 1. Who sells tickets _____
 - 2. Who takes tickets _____
 - D. Please list other methods used in obtaining money for junior high school athletics. _____

- VI. Is a separate junior high school athletic activity account kept? Yes _____, No _____
- A. Who acts as treasurer of this account? _____
- VII. About how much is spent on the junior high school athletic program per year?
- A. For football _____
 - B. For basketball _____
 - C. For track and field _____
 - D. For other sports _____
 - E. For officials' fees _____
 - 1. What fee do you pay football officials _____
 - 2. What fee do you pay basketball officials _____
 - 3. What fee do you pay baseball officials _____
 - 4. What fee do you pay scorekeepers _____

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